

Spark Gap

Vol. 31, Issue 9, September 2014 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-one years*

On Our MARC...

My first term as club president is coming to an end and it has been my pleasure to serve with an outstanding group of officers the past year. I'd like to thank Dave Daily, Rhonda Curtis, Linda Harshbarger, and Steve Brown for a great job. I would also like to thank Matt Payne and the IT Team for working hard on getting our Website up to date, Kevin Nuetzman and Rusty Kirts for getting our name out there to the public and coming up with ways to get all the members involved and working on things to get old members back. Thanks to Bob LaGrange for serving as editor-in-chief of the Spark Gap. Thanks to the membership for all the support that you have given the club. Without you, there would be no MARC.

I would like to let Steve Brown and Linda Harshbarger know that they will be missed as officers but understand that they have other commitments that have made them decide to step down.

I'm looking forward to my second term as President and am encouraging everyone that if there are things that I didn't get to the past year that they would like to see, please let me know. Also, the PIO's are looking for new ideas for the coming year.

Just a reminder, that our yearly picnic is Sept 20th at Steve Brown's house. Club will provide the meat, lemonade, ice tea and water. Please bring a side dish and chairs. Hope to see everyone there.

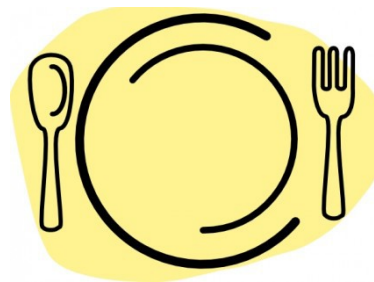
Jacki – KI6QOG
President



BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

KC9OAE-Stephanien Brown

Dinner Social



Oct 14, 2014 – Fireside Brewhouse – Greenwood

M.A.R.C. ELECTION OF 2014/2015 CLUB OFFICERS

The Mid-State ARC Officers slate for 2014/2015 has been set.

Your officers are:

President – Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG

Vice President – Dave Daily, KB9LOT

Secretary – Rhonda Curtis, WS9H

Treasurer – Cy Young, N9CHY

Trustee – Chris Frederick, KQ9Y

Jacki, Dave, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Brown, N9LC, for serving as our Trustee as well as Linda Harsbarger, KC9GCH, for serving as our Treasurer. Steve and Linda both decided to not run for office again this year due to other commitments outside of the club.

We hope to see everyone and their family at the picnic coming up on September 20, 2014 at the N9LC Ranch.

We are having VE Testing at the EOC before the picnic.

Rhonda

WS9H

MARC Secretary

New Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee Set at \$21.40

ZCZC AG16
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 16 ARLB016
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT September 4, 2014

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB016
ARLB016 New Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee Set at \$21.40

The FCC has adjusted very slightly downward - to \$21.40 - its proposed Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee for Fiscal Year 2014. In a June Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), the Commission said it was planning to hike the current \$16.10 vanity fee to \$21.60 for the 10-year license term. The FCC released a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (R&O) in the proceeding on August 29, in which it recalculated the fee to \$21.40 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.30 increase still represents the largest vanity fee hike in many years.

The new \$21.40 fee does not go into effect until 30 days after the R&O is published in The Federal Register.

In the R&O, the FCC said it considered eliminating the regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications but decided not to do so "at this time," because it lacks "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighs the collected revenue; or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process." The Commission said it would reevaluate this issue in the future to determine if it should eliminate other fee categories.

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau sets the vanity call sign regulatory fee using projections of new applications and renewals, taking into consideration existing Commission licensee databases, such as the Universal Licensing System (ULS) database.

The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014. The Commission said the vanity program generated an estimated \$230,230 in FY 2013 revenue, and it estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100 in FY 2014.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable when applying for a new vanity call sign or when renewing a vanity call sign, although some older vanity call signs are not subject to the regulatory fee.
NNNN

Mysterious fake cellphone towers found across US

The structures appear to be connecting to nearby phones and either tapping calls or reading texts.

By [MSN Money Partner](#) Sep 4, 2014



By Jack Dutton, [Business Insider](#)

Seventeen fake cellphone towers were discovered across the U.S. last week, [according to a report in Popular Science](#). Rather than offering you cellphone service, the towers appear to be connecting to nearby phones, bypassing their encryption, and either tapping calls or reading texts.

Les Goldsmith, the CEO of **ESD America**, used ESD's CryptoPhone 500 to detect 17 bogus cellphone towers. [ESD](#) is a leading American defense and law enforcement technology provider based in Las Vegas.

With most phones, these fake communication towers are undetectable. But not for the CryptoPhone 500, [a customized Android device that is disguised as a Samsung Galaxy S III](#) but has highly advanced encryption.

[Goldsmith told Popular Science](#): "Interceptor use in the U.S. is much higher than people had anticipated. One of our customers took a road trip from [Florida](#) to North Carolina and he found eight different interceptors on that trip. We even found one at South Point Casino in Las Vegas."

The towers were found in July, but the report implied that there may have been more out there.

Although it is unclear who owns the towers, ESD found that several of them were located near [U.S. military](#) bases.

"Whose interceptor is it? Who are they, that's listening to calls around military bases? Is it just the U.S. military, or are they foreign governments doing it? The point is: we don't really know whose they are," [Goldsmith said to Popular Science](#).

It's probably not the NSA -- [that agency can tap all it wants without the need for bogus towers](#), Venture

Beat reported:

Cont.....

Not the NSA, cloud security firm SilverSky CTO/SVP Andrew Jaquith told us. "The NSA doesn't need a fake tower," he said. "They can just go to the carrier" to tap your line.

ComputerWorld points out that the fake towers give themselves away by [crushing down the performance of your phone from 4G to 2G while the intercept is taking place](#). So if you see your phone operating on a slow download signal while you're near a military base . . . maybe make that call from somewhere else.

In an amazing coincidence, [police departments in a handful of U.S. cities have been operating "Stingray" or "Hailstorm" towers](#), which -- you guessed it -- conduct surveillance on mobile phone activity. They do that by jamming mobile phone signals, forcing phones to drop down from 4G and 3G network bands to the older, more insecure 2G band.

MSN Monthly Partner September 2014



Ham Humor, Part 1

Across

1. Four after A
 5. High frequency prefix
 10. Two is one
 14. Dubai designator
 15. Best condition for
 contesting, or tower climbing,
 say
 16. ZS neighbor's prefix
 17. AI language
 18. Diminish
 19. FET type
 20. With 41 and 52 across,
 society highlighted in 36
 across and founded by 31
 down
 23. VE2 way
 24. They make some displays
 play
 28. Skedaddles
 31. Buzzer (non-RF)
 33. 5N dough
 34. Mint alt., on eBay, e.g.
 35. "Excuse me", low in the
 band
 36. QST department
 37. React. plus res.
 38. Hams love them
 40. Bird word
 41. See 20 across
 43. Owns
 44. Coffee maker
 45. "Sesame Street" regular
 46. Cut 100
 47. Salad green
 49. Kane's word
 51. "QRZ?"
 52. See 20 across
 58. N.Y.C. part
 61. 4W, was CR8 during the
 time of 31 down writing 36
 across
 62. Tuvalu
 63. Houston university
 64. 31 down's prefix
 65. She sheep

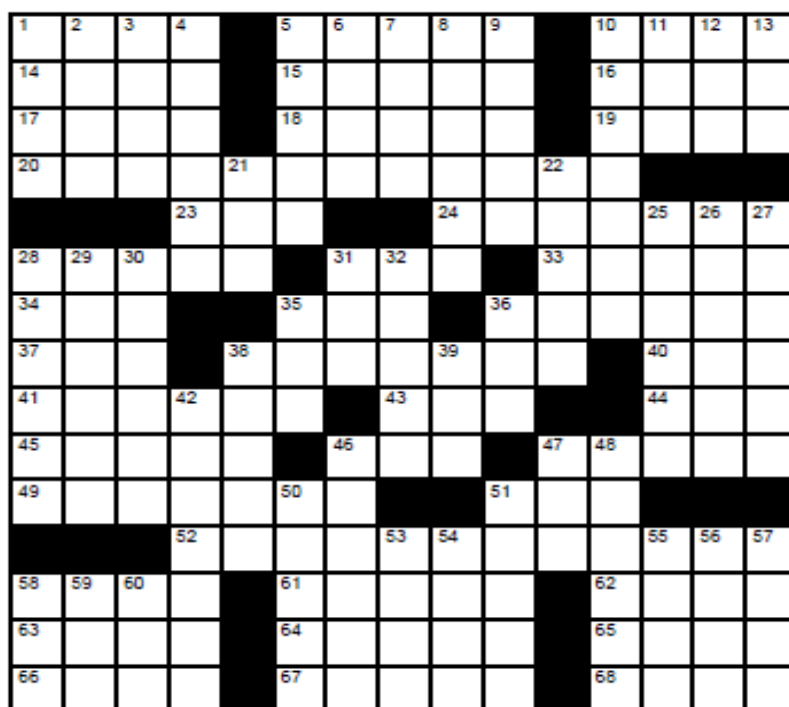
66. Rotating rings for towers
 67. "Yes, Sen. Kennedy",
 familiarly
 68. Zero

Down

1. Unadorned
 2. Nassau prefix
 3. EME antenna
 4. IC-7800, say, in JA
 5. Grammar topic
 6. Radiation pattern feature
 7. Ski lift
 8. Respond again, on RTTY,
 say
 9. "He's ____ nowhere man"
 10. Tool for reducing
 spectrum width?
 11. 20's dispenser
 12. JA transceiver maker
 middle
 13. Don'ts partner

21. Famous DXpeditioner,
 when 31 down wrote 36
 across, familiarly
 22. Trillions of zeptos
 25. Goof
 26. Passions
 27. 5th century G-land settlers
 28. Last second on-line bidder
 29. D6 place
 30. Poplars, in W0, say
 31. Callsign suffix of one
 time 36 across writer and
 creator of 20 across.
 32. Zero zulu in two-land
 June
 35. Articulate
 36. Very popular examples of
 38 across
 38. Early radio maker
 39. Fast no more
 42. Decorates 60's-style
 46. "...like taking ____

- from a fire hose."
 (information overload)
 47. Half a Latin dance
 48. T.O.M.'s series of articles
 50. Where the DX might be
 listening
 51. Kit alternative
 53. Radiate
 54. UHF antenna type, with
 dis-
 55. Prefix in Lombardia
 56. First astronaut ham,
 familiarly
 57. Well known DXer KH6IJ
 when 31 down ran 36 across
 58. Disp. device before LCD,
 LED
 59. Early first century year
 60. Inter-area NTS org



IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sept. 20 M.A.R.C. Annual Picnic/Meeting

To be held at the Steve Brown N9LC Ranch
See the MARC web page for more details

Sept. 27 Greenwood H. S. Marching Band Invitational, Greenwood

Need 15 to 19 volunteers to assist with public safety and parking.
High School Marching Bands compete on the Greenwood HS
Football Field.

At times there have been as many as 15 schools competing, this year
there will be 29 bands, so it takes many people to help with this event.
This will be the 18th year of MARC assisting with this event. Please
help!!!! More details to come.



ARRL Contest Schedule

October

11-12 EME - 2.3 GHz & Up

20-24 School Club Roundup

November

1-3 Nov. Sweepstakes – CW

8-9 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz

15-17 Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone

December

5-7 160 Meter

6-7 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz

13-14 10 Meter

21 Rookie Roundup–CW

For more information on contesting please see the ARRL link:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>



This month in Coffee Break training, we are going to continue the review of applying for disaster assistance. Frequently after disasters the continuing disaster that makes things worse for people is the misinformation that can and will circulate because of rumor and not knowing the process of registering for disaster assistance. These range from ‘FEMA will replace everything’ to ‘FEMA cant do anything for me!’ (By the way there is a cap to how much financial assistance FEMA can give before the Small Business Administration (SBA) can or has to take over on financial aid. The myth versus fact game can be a vicious circle, here are a few of the more common things seen.

Myth vs. Fact: The Truth about Registering for Federal Disaster Assistance

[Main Content](#)

Release date:

December 7, 2013

Release Number:

4157-005

Springfield, Ill. – In the aftermath of a disaster, misconceptions about disaster assistance can often prevent survivors from applying for help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Small Business Administration. A good rule of thumb: **register, even if you’re unsure whether you’ll be eligible for assistance.**

Registering with FEMA is simple. You can apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov or with a mobile device by downloading the FEMA app or by visiting m.fema.gov. You can also register over the phone by calling FEMA’s helpline, **800-621-FEMA (3362)**. **Survivors who are deaf or hard of hearing and use a TTY can call 800-462-7585.** The toll-free telephone numbers operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

Clarification on some common misunderstandings:

- **MYTH:** I've already cleaned up the damage to my home and had the repairs made. Isn't it too late to register once the work is done?
FACT: You may be eligible for reimbursement of your clean up and repair costs, even if repairs are complete.
- **MYTH:** I believe FEMA only makes loans so I didn't apply for help because I don't want a loan.
FACT: FEMA only provides grants that do not have to be paid back. The grants may cover expenses for temporary housing, home repairs, replacement of damaged personal property and other disaster-related needs such as medical, dental or transportation costs not covered by insurance or other programs.

The U.S. Small Business Administration provides low-interest disaster loans to renters, homeowners and businesses of all sizes. Some applicants may be contacted by SBA after registering with FEMA. You are not obligated to take out a loan, but if you don't complete the application, you may not be considered for other federal grant programs. You can apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. For more information on SBAs Disaster Loan Program,

visit [SBA.gov/Disaster](https://www.sba.gov/Disaster), call the SBA Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** (TTY **800-877-8339** for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or send an email to DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov.

- **MYTH:** I don't want to apply for help because others had more damage than I had; they need the help more than I did.
FACT: FEMA has enough funding to assist all eligible survivors with their disaster-related needs.
- **MYTH:** I'm a renter. I thought FEMA assistance was only for homeowners for home repairs.
FACT: FEMA assistance is not just for homeowners. FEMA may provide assistance to help renters who lost personal property or who were displaced.
- **MYTH:** FEMA assistance could affect my Social Security benefits, taxes, food stamps or Medicaid.
FACT: FEMA assistance does not affect benefits from other federal programs and is not considered taxable income.
- **MYTH:** I heard registration involves a lot of red tape and paperwork.
FACT: There is no paperwork to register with FEMA. The process is very easy and normally takes between 15 and 20 minutes.
- **MYTH:** Since I received disaster assistance last year, I'm sure I can't get it again this year.
FACT: Assistance may be available if you suffered damages from a new federally-declared disaster.
- **MYTH:** My income is probably too high for me to qualify for FEMA disaster assistance.
FACT: Income is not a consideration for FEMA grant assistance. However you will be asked financial questions during registration to help determine eligibility for SBA low-interest disaster loans.

For the latest information on Illinois' recovery from the Nov. 17 storms, visit [FEMA.gov/Disaster/4157](https://www.fema.gov/Disaster/4157). Follow FEMA online at twitter.com/femaregion5, facebook.com/fema and youtube.com/fema. The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

SBA is the federal government's primary source of funding for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For information about SBA programs, applicants may call 800-659-2955 (TTY 800-877-8339).

Media Contact: Don Jacks, 304-542-6258

HAMFESTS

09/20/2014 | [Hancock ARC Hamfest](#)

Location: Greenfield, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hancock Amateur Radio Club of Hancock County

Website: <http://www.w9atg.org>

10/04/2014 | [Hoosier Hills Hamfest](#)

Location: Mitchell, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club

Website: <http://www.w9qyq.org/hamfest>

11/15/2014 | [Indiana State Convention \(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo\)](#)

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

Website: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL Tone

Club Officers:
President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis– WS9H
Treasurer: Linda Harshbarger – KC9GCH
Repeater Trustee: Steve Brown – N9LC

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

Answer to Ham Humor, Part 1:

B	C	D	E		U	L	T	R	A		B	A	N	D
A	S	I	X		S	O	B	E	R		A	T	W	O
L	I	S	P		A	B	A	T	E		N	M	O	S
D	X	H	O	G	G	E	R	Y	A	N	D			
				R	U	E			P	L	A	S	M	A
S	C	A	T	S		B	E	E		N	A	I	R	A
N	O	S			S	R	I		H	O	W	S	D	X
I	M	P		G	A	D	G	E	T	S		C	O	O
P	O	E	T	R	Y		H	A	S			U	R	N
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				D	E	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	I	O
C	I	T	Y		T	I	M	O	R		T	T	W	O
R	I	C	E		W	N	I	N	E		E	W	E	S
T	I	C	S		O	K	T	E	D		N	O	N	E